Proposed Maximum Residue Limit PMRL2010-31

Difenoconazole

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Under the authority of the *Pest Control Products Act*, Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) is proposing to establish maximum residue limits (MRLs) for difenoconazole in or on tuberous and corm vegetables (Crop Subgroup 1C), fruiting vegetables (Crop Group 8-09), pome fruits (Crop Group 11-09), bananas, grapes, olives, papayas and sugar beet roots to permit the import and sale of foods containing such residues. See Appendix I for a listing of crop group/subgroup commodities.

Difenoconazole is a fungicide currently registered in Canada for seed treatment use on cereal grains, canola and mustard.

The PMRA has determined the quantity of residues that are likely to remain in or on the imported food commodities when difenoconazole is used according to label directions in the exporting countries. The Agency has also determined that such residues will not be a concern to human health and is proposing to legally establish corresponding import MRLs. An MRL applies to the identified raw agricultural food commodity as well as to any processed food product that contains it, except where separate MRLs are specified for the raw agricultural commodity and a processed product made from it.

Details regarding the import MRLs can be found in the corresponding Evaluation Report that is available in the Pesticides and Pest Management section Health Canada's website, under Public Registry, Pesticide Product Information Database.[1]

Consultation on the proposed import MRLs for difenoconazole is being conducted via this document (see Next Steps, the last section of this document).

To comply with Canada's international trade obligations, consultation on the proposed MRLs is also being conducted internationally by notifying the World Trade Organization, as coordinated by the Standards Council of Canada.

The proposed MRLs for difenoconazole in Canada in or on food, to be added to the MRLs already legally established, are as follows.

[1] The relevant report can be accessed by selecting the Applications/Amendment/Historical tab and opening the Evaluation Report found under Application Number 2008-2242.

Table 1 Proposed Maximum Residue Limits for Difenoconazole

Common Name	Residue Definition	MRL (ppm)	Food Commodity
Difenoconazole	1-[2-[4-(4-chlorophenoxy)-2-chlorophenyl]-4-methyl-1,3-dioxolan-2-ylmethyl]-1*H*-1,2,4-triazole	2.5	Olives
		1.0	Pome fruits (Crop Group 11-09)
		0.6	Fruiting vegetables (Crop Group 8-09)
		0.3	Papayas, sugar beet roots
		0.2	Bananas
		0.1	Grapes
		0.01	Tuberous and corm vegetables (Crop Subgroup 1C)

MRLs are proposed for each commodity included in the listed crop groupings in accordance with Appendix I.

A complete list of all MRLs established in Canada can be found on the Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides webpage in the Pesticides and Pest Management section of Health Canada's website.

International Situation and Trade Implications

Table 2 compares the proposed MRLs for difenoconazole in Canada with tolerances established in the United States and Codex MRLs[2]. American tolerances are listed in the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations, 40 CFR Part 180, by pesticide. A listing of all established Codex MRLs is available on the Codex Alimentarius Pesticide Residues in Food website.

Table 2 Comparison of Canadian MRLs, American Tolerances and Codex MRLs

Food Commodity	Canadian MRL (ppm)	American Tolerance (ppm)	Codex MRL (ppm)
Olives	2.5	No tolerance established	2.0
Pome fruits (Crop Group 11-09)	1.0	1.0 ("fruit, pome, group 11")	0.5
Fruiting vegetables (Crop Group 8-09)	0.6	0.6 ("vegetable, fruiting, group 8")	0.5 ("tomato" only)
Papayas	0.3	0.3	0.2
Sugar beet roots	0.3	0.01	0.2
Bananas	0.2	0.2	0.1

[2] Codex is an international organization under the auspices of the United Nations that develops international food standards, including MRLs.

Food Commodity	Canadian MRL (ppm)	American Tolerance (ppm)	Codex MRL (ppm)
Grapes	0.1	0.1	0.1
Tuberous and corm vegetables (Crop Subgroup 1C)	0.01	0.01	0.02 ("potato" only)

Next Steps

The PMRA invites the public to submit written comments on the proposed import MRLs for difenoconazole up to 75 days from the date of publication of this document. Please forward your comments to Publications (see the contact information on the cover page of this document). The PMRA will consider all comments received before making a final decision on the proposed MRLs for difenoconazole and posting a corresponding Established Maximum Residue Limit document in the Pesticides and Pest Management section of Health Canada's website.

Appendix I

Crop Groups: Numbers and Definitions

Crop Group		Crop Subgroup		Food Commodities Included in the Crop Group or Subgroup
No.	**Name**	**No.**	**Name**	
1	Root and tuber Vegetables	1C	Tuberous and corm vegetables	Arracacha Arrowroot Cassava roots Chayote roots Chinese artichokes Chufa Edible canna Ginger roots Jerusalem artichokes Lerens Potatoes Sweet potato roots Tanier corms Taro corms True yam tubers Turmeric roots Yam bean roots
8-09	Fruiting vegetable			African eggplants Bell peppers Bush tomatoes Coconas Currant tomatoes Eggplants Garden huckleberries Goji berries Groundcherries Martynias Naranjillas Non-bell peppers Okras Pea eggplants Pepinos Roselles Scarlet eggplants Sunberries Tomatillos Tomatoes Tree tomatoes

Crop Group		Crop Subgroup		Food Commodities Included in the Crop Group or Subgroup
No.	**Name**	**No.**	**Name**	
11-09	Pome fruit			Apples Asian pears Azaroles Chinese quinces Crabapples Japanese quinces Loquats Mayhaws Medlars Pears Quinces Tejocotes